

METHOD FOR PROVIDING A QUANTITY  
OF TELEPHONE TIME FROM AN ATM  
OR POS TERMINAL

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for providing a quantity of pre-paid telephone time from an automated teller machine (ATM) or a point-of-sale device (POS terminal), to a patron of either of such device. PIN numbers, obtained from a telephone service provider and each designating a pre-paid quantity of telephone service time, are made available to the ATM or POS terminal. The patron is queried by the device if he/she wishes to purchase telephone time. Upon selection of a quantity of pre-paid telephone time by a patron and payment for such purchased quantity of time, the device selects a particular PIN number having an associated quantity of telephone time corresponding to the quantity of telephone service time purchased by the patron, and provides such PIN number to the patron. In a preferred embodiment the PIN number is provided to the patron by being printed out on the ATM's existing account statement printer, or on the account statement printer of a POS terminal if a POS device is alternatively employed. An ATM to permit patrons of such ATM to purchase a quantity of telephone time from one of a plurality of telephone service providers is further disclosed.